



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**NC 268 Widening
From Multi-Lanes East of NC 18 to Airport Road (SR 1966)**

NCDOT STIP Project No. R-2603

WBS Number 36001.1.2

Federal Aid Project No. STP-0268(15)

Wilkes County

Combined Public Hearing

North Wilkesboro Elementary School Cafeteria
200 Flint Hill Road
North Wilkesboro, 28604

Informal Open House 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
(No formal presentation tonight)

**N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT INFORMATION PACKET**

**NC 268 Widening
TIP R-2603
Wilkes County**



Packet Contents:

- **Project Overview** 3
- **Public Involvement Process** 3
- **Public Hearing Format** 3
- **What Happens Next?** 4
- **Project Contact** 4
- **Purpose of and Need for the Project** 5
- **Project Map** 5
- **Project Description** 6
- **Summary of Anticipated Impacts** 8
- **Project Funding and Schedule** 9
- **Right of Way Procedures** 9
- **Relocation Assistance** 10
- **Title VI Public Involvement Form** 11
- **Project Comment Sheet** 13

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Project Overview

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), propose to widen and upgrade NC 268 (Elkin Highway) in Wilkes County from NC 18 to SR 1966 (Airport Road). NC 268 will be widened to multi-lanes from near Shaver Street to Airport Road. Proposed improvements to NC 268 from NC 18 to near Shaver Street include resurfacing, replacement of drainage structures, and replacement of curb and gutter. Additional project details can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this handout.

Public Involvement Process

The North Carolina Department of Transportation’s (NCDOT) Public Involvement Program provides interested citizens the opportunity to gain information about the project and to participate in the planning process. Today’s public hearing is an important step in the NCDOT’s transportation development process and we look forward to your input. Everyone is encouraged to participate by expressing his or her individual opinion. The project team considers all opinions equally.

Public Hearing Format

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public input on the project. This is an occasion for the project team to meet you and answer any questions that you may have. It is also an opportunity for you to meet the team members and obtain additional information about the project. There are several ways you can participate in today’s public hearing:

MAP REVIEW



Maps of the NC 268 project are available and will help guide you regarding the project boundaries and sections of the road that will be improved.

When looking at the maps you will note there is a legend in the upper left corner. Below are some of the items on the map to which you may want to pay particular attention.

- Brown = existing buildings, i.e. residents and businesses
- Dark green = existing right of way
- Light green = proposed right of way
- Steel gray = existing roadway
- Orange = existing roadway that will be resurfaced
- Yellow = proposed roadway
- Red = proposed structures, i.e. a bridge

LEGEND:

	BUILDINGS
	EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY
	PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY
	PROPOSED EASEMENTS (DRAINAGE, CONSTRUCTION, AND UTILITY)
	EXISTING ROADWAY
	EXISTING ROADWAY TO BE REMOVED
	EXISTING ROADWAY TO BE RESURFACED
	PROPOSED ROADWAY
	PROPOSED GRASS MEDIAN
	TEMPORARY ROADWAY / DETOURS
	PROPOSED STRUCTURES, ISLAND, SIDEWALK, CURB AND GUTTER



2

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing open house is from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. and is an occasion for you to meet one on one with project team members to discuss any specific concerns.

Please note that there will be no presentation at the meeting.

3

COMMENTS

Please take a moment to complete the comment sheet and Title IV Public Involvement Sheet at the end of this information packet. Written comments are considered by the project team and will be accepted until **June 1**. You may give your comment sheet to a project team member, drop it in the comment box located at the sign in table, or mail it to the Senior Public Hearing Officer, Kimberly Hinton. Ms. Hinton's mailing address is listed below and on the back of the project comment form.

What Happens Next?

A post-hearing meeting will be conducted after the comment period has ended. All public comments regarding this project are discussed at this meeting. Most issues are resolved at the post-hearing meeting. The NCDOT considers safety, costs, traffic service, social impacts, and public comments in making decisions. Complex issues may require additional study and may be reviewed by higher management, Board of Transportation Members and/or the Secretary of Transportation. Minutes of the post-hearing meeting are prepared and a summary is available to the public. You may request this document on the attached comment sheet.

After all comments are received and reviewed, the NCDOT, FHWA and environmental resource agencies will identify the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) / Preferred Alternative. After selection of the Preferred Alternative, the project will be reviewed for additional ways to avoid and minimize impacts. Then the NCDOT and FHWA will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI will include responses to citizen and agency comments and a description of the Preferred Alternative and the reason for its selection. Comments received about the design of the NC 268 widening from the hearing will be reviewed at the post hearing meeting and incorporated, where feasible, into the development of the final design plans for the project.

Project Contact

If you have any questions or would like to send comments regarding NC 268, please contact:

Kimberly Hinton

Senior Public Hearing Officer

N.C. Department of Transportation

Human Environment Unit

1598 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Phone: (919) 707-6072

Fax: (919) 212-5785

E-mail: khinton@ncdot.gov

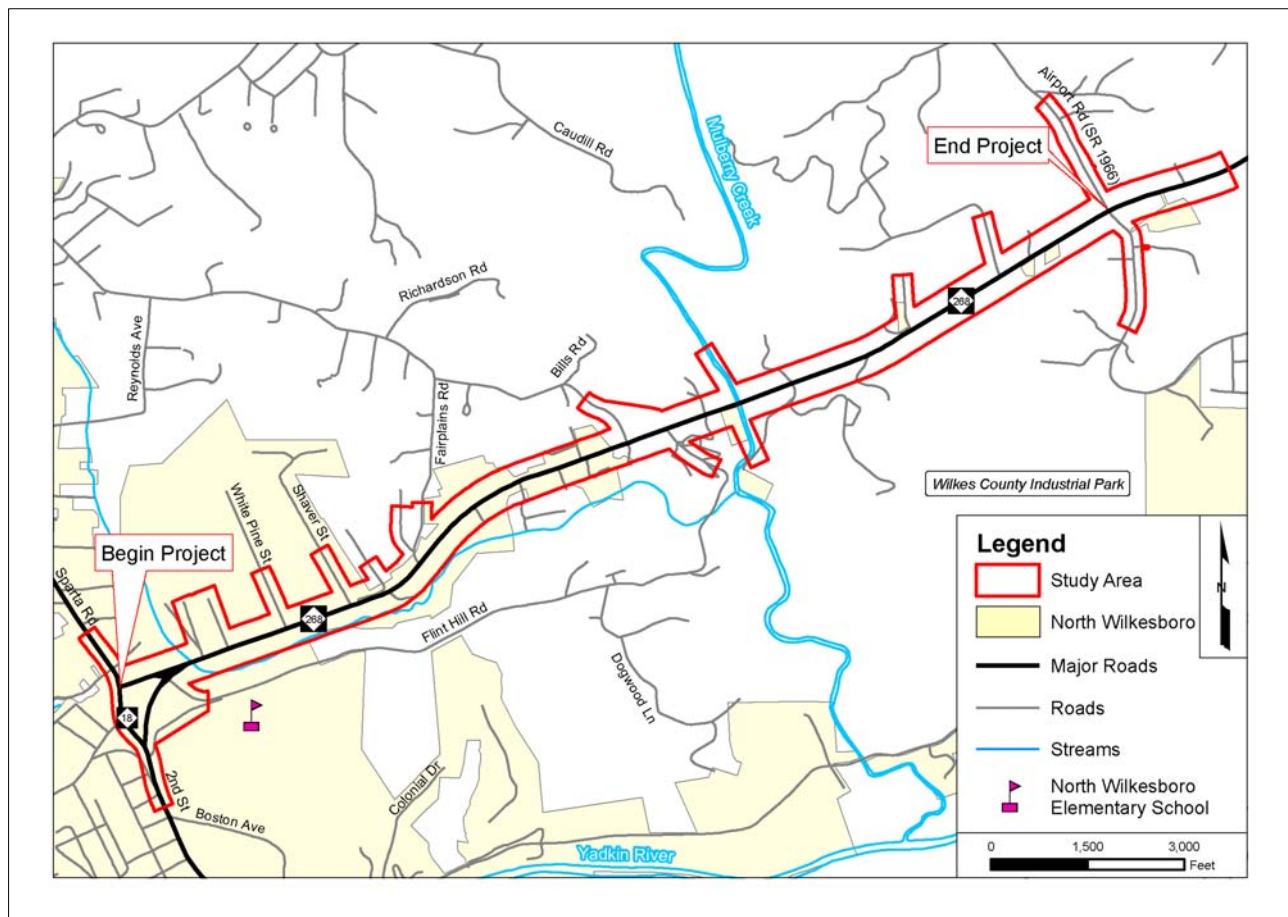
Purpose of and Need for the Project

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Improve traffic flow and level of service, and reduce conflicts between through and local traffic on NC 268 in the project area; and,
- Provide upgrades to the existing multi-lane section of NC 268 between NC 18 and Shaver Street.

Improvements to NC 268 are needed to provide adequate capacity for current and future traffic. In addition, NCDOT estimates the existing multi-lane section on NC 268 was built about 40 years ago and is in need of repairs. Proposed upgrades include repaving the road, replacing drainage structures and replacing curb and gutter.

Project Map

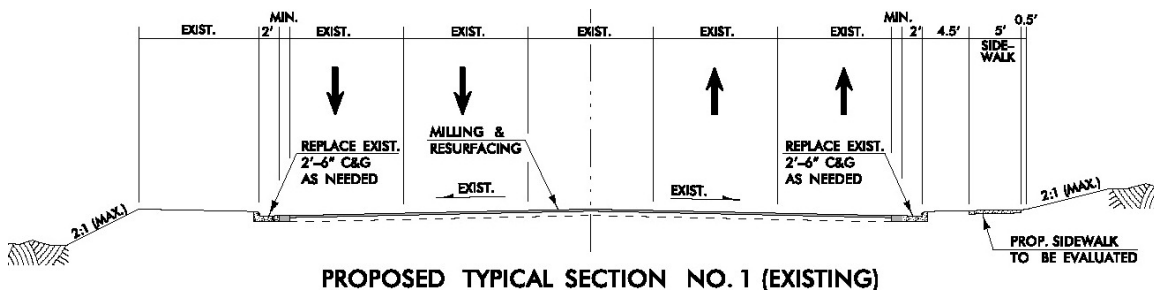


Project Description

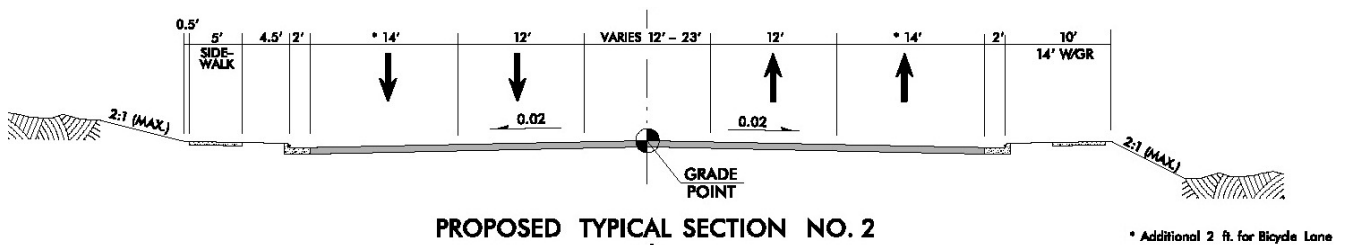
The No Build Alternative, the Best-Fit Widening Alternative, and five typical sections were studied during the development of the project. The No Build Alternative does not meet the purpose of and need for the proposed project. The Best-Fit Widening Alternative includes widening NC 268 to both sides of the road from near Shaver Street to Airport Road. It also includes making improvements to NC 268 along the existing multi-lane section from NC 18 to about Shaver Street. The Best-Fit Widening Alternative is consistent with local plans and is NCDOT's recommended alternative.

The Best-Fit Widening Alternative incorporates the following typical sections:

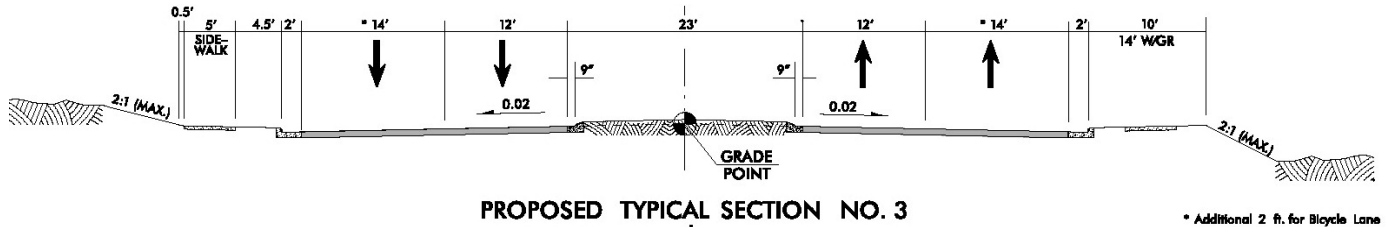
Typical Section 1 is the existing five-lane curb and gutter section from NC 18 to Shaver Street that was evaluated for needed upgrades. Upgrades would include improvements to the existing roadway, such as repaving, replacement of drainage structures, and replacement of curb and gutter. A sidewalk is proposed on the south side of NC 268.



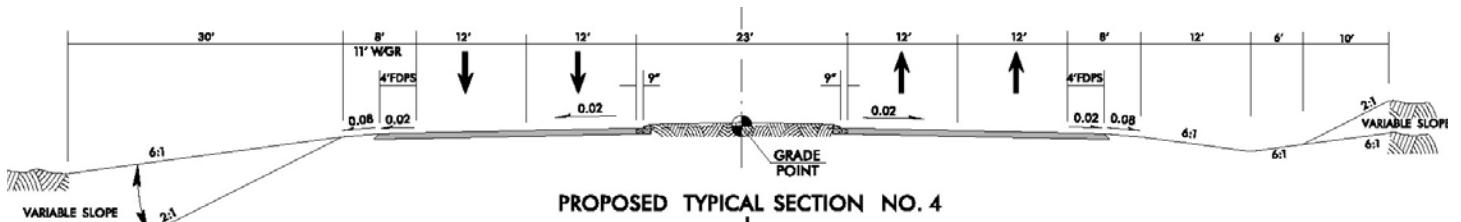
Typical Section 2 is proposed to begin at the end of the existing five-lane section at Shaver Street. Widening would begin with a center turn lane and transition to a four-lane divided roadway past Legion Road, near Fairplains Road. Typical Section 2 includes wide outside lanes (14 feet) to accommodate bicycles and five-foot sidewalks on both sides of the road.



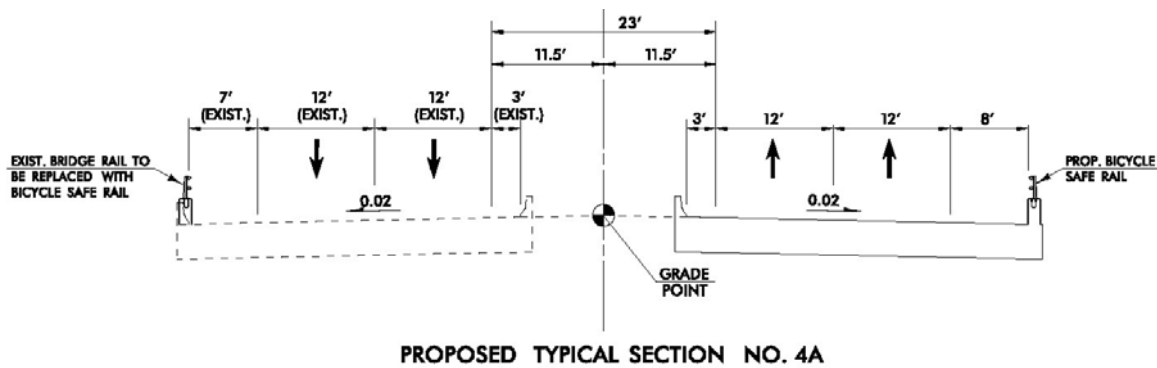
Typical Section 3 is proposed from near Fairplains Road to the Town of North Wilkesboro limits near Aaron Call Road. Typical Section 3 includes two lanes in each direction with wide outside lanes (14 feet) to accommodate bicycles, a 23-foot raised grass median, and five-foot sidewalks on both sides of the road.



Typical Section 4 would begin outside of the Town of North Wilkesboro limits near Aaron Call Road and extend to Airport Road (SR 1966), with the exception of the crossing over Mulberry Creek. Typical Section 4 includes four-foot paved shoulders to accommodate bicycles, two 12-foot lanes in each direction, and a 23-foot raised grass median.



Typical Section 4A is the proposed typical section for a new bridge crossing over Mulberry Creek. The proposed bridge includes two 12-foot travel lanes, a three-foot inside shoulder and an eight-foot outside shoulder. Bicycle-safe rail is proposed. The existing bridge, built in 2006, would serve westbound traffic and the new structure, which is proposed south of the existing bridge, would serve eastbound traffic.



Summary of Anticipated Impacts

Evaluation Factors	Best-Fit Widening Alternative
Project Length (miles)	3.6 (2.9 widening)
Interchanges and Railroad Crossings	0
Schools, Churches, Cemeteries, Recreational Areas and Parks	0
Utilities	Relocate 1,200 ft. water line, 1,200 ft. sewer line, utility poles
Historic Properties and Archaeological Sites	0
Federal Listed Threatened/Endangered Species Present in Corridor	0
State Listed Threatened or Endangered Species	0
100 Year Floodplain and Floodway Crossings	3
Forest Impacts (acres)	12.87
Prime and Unique Farmlands ¹ (acres)	46.7
Potential Residential Relocations	7
Potential Business Relocations	4
Hazardous Material Sites	3
Delineated Wetland Impacts (no. crossings/acres)	2 / 0.4
Delineated Stream Impacts (no. crossings/linear feet)	9/ 1,703
Riparian Buffer Impacts	0
Water Supply Watersheds/Critical Area	0
On-site Restoration Potential	Yes (S1, S3, S4, S10)
Impacted Noise Receptor	5 (4 residences, 1 business)
Section 4(f) Impacts	0
Federal Lands, Wildlife Refuges and Gamelands	0
Low Income Population Impacts	0
Minority Population Impacts	2 Minority Relocations ²
Significant Natural Heritage Program Areas	0
Existing and Proposed Greenway Crossings	0
Right of Way Cost Estimate	\$4,755,000
Construction and Utility Relocations Cost Estimates	\$20,071,121

¹ Impacts to Prime Farmland from NRCS Form AD 1006 (see Appendix B) calculated based on study area. AD 1006 Impacts to Statewide and Local Important Farmland total 143.3 acres.

² Minority relocations are included in the seven Potential Residential Relocations.



Project Funding and Schedule

NC 268, a Federal Aid Highway Project, will be constructed under the State-Federal Aid Highway Program. Financing of this project is 80% federal funds and 20% state funds. The Board of Transportation is responsible for the selection and scheduling of the project location, design and maintenance cost of the project once construction is completed.

In order to ensure that each Federal Aid Highway Project meets federal standards and guidelines, the Federal Highway Administration is responsible for the review and approval of the location and design of the project. The preliminary cost and schedule estimates for widening NC 268 are:

CURRENT ESTIMATED COSTS		CURRENT SCHEDULE (Subject to change)	
Right of Way Acquisition	\$ 4,755,000	Right of Way Acquisition	2013
Construction & Utilities Relocation	<u>\$20,071,121</u>	Construction	2015
TOTAL	\$24,826,121		

Right of Way Procedures

There are seven (7) homes and four (4) businesses that are anticipated to be relocated as a result of this project (subject to change.) The existing right of way along NC 268 is 100 feet. The proposed right of way varies between 100 and 205 feet. Proposed right of way and temporary construction easements will be purchased by NCDOT in areas needed for grading and drainage. Temporary easements will revert back to property owners at the end of construction. Right of way agents are available to discuss right of way concerns.

NCDOT’s standard right of way procedures are outlined below. If your property is affected, the right of way agent will contact you. The agent will gather additional information, answer questions concerning the right of way acquisition procedure and inform you of your legal rights.

As part of the right of way acquisition process NCDOT must:

- Treat all property owners and tenants impartially without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin;
- Fully explain an owner's legal rights;
- Pay just compensation in exchange for property rights;
- Furnish relocation advisory assistance, in accordance with federal and state regulations; and
- Initiate legal action should a settlement not be reached.

Right of way agents are trained to explain plans and advise you how a proposed highway project will affect your property. The agent will also collect information regarding the property history, accuracy of the property lines and buildings as shown on the plans and



property areas. If permanent right of way is required, professionals who are familiar with real estate values will evaluate or appraise your property. The evaluations or appraisals will be reviewed for completeness and accuracy and then the Right of Way Agent will make a written offer to you. The current market value of the property at its highest and best use, when appraised, will be offered as compensation.

Relocation Assistance

If you are a relocated, that is, if your residence or business is to be acquired as part of the project, additional assistance in the form of advice and compensation is available. You will also be provided with assistance on locations of comparable housing and/or commercial establishments, moving procedures, and moving aid. Moving expenses may be paid for you. Additional monetary compensation is available to help homeowners cope with mortgage increases, increased value of comparable homes, closing costs, etc. A similar program is available to assist business owners. The Right of Way Agent can explain this assistance in greater detail. **For your convenience, an informational pamphlet on right of way is available at the sign in table. It outlines this process in more detail.**

Title VI Public Involvement Form

Completing this form is **completely** voluntary. You are not required to provide the information requested in order to participate in this meeting.

Meeting Type: Public Hearing for the Proposed Widening of NC 268 Location: North Wilkesboro Elementary School Cafeteria, 202 Flint Hill Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659	Date: May 16, 2011
TIP No.: R-2603 Project Description: Detailed environmental analysis of proposed corridor and design for widening NC 268 from multi-lanes east of NC 18 to SR 1966 (Airport Road). Widen to multi-lanes. Wilkes County.	

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) assures that no person(s) shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any of the Department's programs, policies, or activities, based on their race, color, national origin, disability, age, income, or gender.

Completing this form helps meet our data collection and public involvement obligations under Title VI and NEPA, and will improve how we serve the public. Please place the completed form in the designated box on the sign-in table, hand it to an NCDOT official or mail it to the NCDOT Office of Civil Rights, Title VI Section at 1511 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1511.

All forms will remain on file at the NCDOT as part of the public record.

Zip Code: _____ Street Name: (i.e. Main Street) _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Total Household Income: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47,000 – \$69,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 – \$19,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000 – \$93,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 – \$30,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$94,000 – \$117,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$31,000 – \$46,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$118,000 or greater	Age: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older <input type="checkbox"/> 30-44
Race/Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	Have a Disability: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No National Origin: (if born outside the U.S.) <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican <input type="checkbox"/> Central American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> South American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____

How did you hear about this meeting? (newspaper advertisement, flyer, and/or mailing) _____

For more information regarding Title VI or this request, please contact the NCDOT Title VI Section at (919) 508-1808 or toll free at 1-800-522-0453, or by email at slipscomb@ncdot.gov.

Thank you for your participation!



**NCDOT Office of Civil Rights
Title VI Section
1511 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1511**

Kimberly D. Hinton
NCDOT - Human Environment Unit
1583 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1583